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HARTLEPOOL PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
of HEALTH

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For the Year ended 31st of December  
1944

By Arnold S. L. Biggart,  
M.B., Ch.B.



# HARTLEPOOL PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

1945

Chairman - - - E. E. DUFOUR

Elected By West Hartlepool Corporation.

A. Hyde, J. P. Kenmara, Park Road, West Hartlepool.  
E. Bloom, Castlewood, Elm Grove, West Hartlepool.  
T. W. Pinkney, 4, Wilton Avenue, West Hartlepool.  
E. Harbron, J.P., 17, Alverstone Avenue, West Hartlepool.  
E. E. Dufour, 21, Beachfield Drive, West Hartlepool.  
S. Metcalfe, 84, Wansbeck Gardens, West Hartlepool.  
V. D'Alby, Craigielea, Stockton Road, West Hartlepool.  
T. V. Oldfield, 175, Park Road, West Hartlepool.  
P. M. Williams, J.P., (Mayor) 52, Fernwood Avenue, West Hartlepool.  
T. Breward, 37, Wharton Terrace, West Hartlepool.

Elected By Hartlepool Corporation.

F. J. Carr, J.P., Piercliffe, St. Hilda Street, Hartlepool.  
R. W. Richardson, J.P., 9, Gray Square, Hartlepool.  
J. Stevenson, 8, Gibb Square, Hartlepool.  
J. Metcalf, 55, Arch Street, Hartlepool.  
T. T. Aird, Brunswick Hotel, Hartlepool.

## Fixed Days of Meetings At the Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool

February 15th 1945	June 21st 1945	November 15th 1945
April 19th 1945	Sept. 20th 1945	December 13th 1945
Each Day at 6.15. P.M.		

## Finance and Port Committees

All Members of the Authority are Members of these Committees.  
The Committee meet at 6.0 p.m. on the same day as the bi-monthly meeting is held.

## OFFICERS

Clerk: C. Gilbert Bunting, Solicitor, Exchange Building, 66, Church St.,  
West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 2850.  
Medical Officer: A. S. L. Biggart, M.B., Ch.B., 221, Stockton Rd., West  
Hartlepool. Telephone No. 3044.  
Deputy Medical Officer: L. J. Stone, M.B., Ch.B., 221, Stockton Rd., West  
Hartlepool. Telephone No. 3044.  
Surveyor: F. Durkin, A.M.I.C.E., Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.  
Inspector: E. V. Abbey, Master Mariner, M.S.I.A. 16, Granville Av., West  
Hartlepool. Telephone No. 2015.  
Deputy Inspector: G. A. Ward, M.S.I.A., 16, Frances St., Hartlepool.  
Telephone No. 6112.  
Rat Catcher: G. Menhennet, 62, Howard Street, Hartlepool.



(1)

ANNUAL REPORT

West Hartlepool  
February 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Hartlepool Port Health Authority.

Gentlemen,

In compliance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st of December 1944.

During the last twelve months there has been a decrease in the amount of shipping entering the Port, 651 vessels as compared with 921 in 1943. This decrease of 270 vessels is mostly to be accounted for by the landing of the B.L.A. on France on the summer.

There have been no cases of Infectious Disease arriving in the Port during the year.

Under the International Sanitary Convention of Paris and the Deratisation of Ships Regulations, 5 Deratisation Certificates and 23 Deratisation Exemption Certificates have been issued. This total is practically the same as for 1943.

The number of rats destroyed has been 324, a marked decrease from 1943 when 647 were destroyed.

In Docks, Quays and Warehouses 934 rats were destroyed as compared with 1330 in 1943.

The number of nuisances dealt with on board vessels was 81 as compared with 78 in 1943.

The work carried out by your Inspector, his Deputy and the Rat Catcher, under difficult circumstances, has been to my entire satisfaction.

In conclusion I desire to express my thanks for the valuable assistance given to me by the Chief Preventive Officer of H.M. Customs Waterguard and his staff, to Captain Stathers M.B.E. and his assistant Dock Masters, to the Board of Trade Surveyor, the L.N.E.R.'s Docks Manager and also to the Pilot Master and Pilots for their hearty co-operation with the Officials of this Authority.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Arnold S. L. Biggart.

Port Medical Officer of Health.





## 1. Number of Vessels Inspected in the Port During the Year 1944.

Table A. (Ministry of Health)

1944	Number Inspected		Number Reported to be Defective	Number of Vessels on which Defects were Remedied.	Number of Vessels Reported as having or having had, during the Voyage, Infectious Disease on Board
	By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Health Inspector			
From Foreign	13	32	9	9	
From Coastwise	52	619	72	65	
Total Foreign and Coastwise	65	651	81	74	

## 11. Source of Water Supply.

- (a) For the Port. The Port is supplied by the Hartlepool Gas & Water Company.
- (b) For Shipping. Ships are supplied from the Mains through Hydrants from the several quays or wharves where the service is laid on.
- (c) Number of Water Boats and their Sanitary condition.  
There are no Water Boats in use for shipping in the Hartlepools.
- The Water is very hard but of excellent quality. It is obtained from springs and catchment basins.

## III. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS 1933.

Paragraphs 1 to XI as printed in previous reports.





TABLE C. (Ministry of Health)

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels

Disease	No. of Cases during 1944		No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Chicken Pox	...	...	...
Continued Fever.	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...
Malaria	...	2	1
Measles	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...
Tuberculosis	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...
TOTAL	...	2	1

Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox, or Typhus Fever has occurred on any vessel arriving in the Port during the year. Rats sent for Bacteriological examination were found to be free from Plague infection.

TABLE D. (Ministry of Health)

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

No cases, to be included in Table D. were reported.

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## IV. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS

Paragraphs 1 to 5 as printed in previous Reports  
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Deratisation of Ships  
Information for Shipowners and Agents

Paragraphs 1 to 8 as printed in previous Reports  
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## RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Table E. (Ministry of Health)

(1) On Vessels

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total in Year.
No. of Rats	80	27	38	Nil	20	Nil	71	Nil	43	25	20	Nil	324

56 Mice were also caught and destroyed.

Table F. (Ministry of Health)

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total in Year.
No. of Rats	59	48	36	16	30	43	97	177	145	102	96	85	934

118 Mice were also caught and destroyed.



TABLE H. (Ministry of Health

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption  
Certificates Issued During the Year.

No. of Ships	No. of Deratisation Certificates Issued After Fumigation with					No. of Deratisa- tion Exemption Certific- ates Issued	TOTAL Certificates Issued
	H.C.N. (Liquid)	Sulphur	H.C.N. and Sulphur	After Trapping Poison- ing etc.	TOTAL		
28	5	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	23	28

Applicable only to those Ports approved by the Minister of Health for the Issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, (Form Port 11).



## V. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

Table J. (Ministry of Health)

## Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessels	Number Inspected during the year	Defects of Original Construction	Structural Defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health
BRITISH	539	Nil	27	32
OTHER NATIONS	112	Nil	9	13

The above is a classification of Nuisances and Defects found to exist on the 651 vessels inspected during the year. The Nuisances or Sanitary Defects were mainly composed of; dirty and verminous crews' quarters and bedding, defective W.Cs, and flush pipes, defective drainage and soil pipes, leaking decks and hawse pipes, defective stoves and funnels, defective port lights, etc. All these Nuisances have been abated or are in the process of being abated.

## VI. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported food) Regulations 1925, Public Health (Imported food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, the Imported Milk Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

There has been very little importation of food and no necessity to take action under the above Regulations.





2. SHELL FISH. Information respecting any shell fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority, stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. Report of any action under the Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1915, or the Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934.

There are no Shell Fish beds or layings under the jurisdiction of this Authority. There are, however, Mussels, Winkles and Cockles which can be picked from dock gates, walls and rocks, and which are liable to pollution from sewage. For this reason warning notices are posted from time to time drawing the attention of the public to the dangerous consequences arising from the consumption of such Shell Fish.

Fresh fish is landed at the Fish Quay, Hartlepool, where it is inspected by the Hartlepool Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector. Unsold Fish and Fish Offal are removed to a factory within the Borough of Hartlepool for conversion to Fish Meal etc.

3. Number of Samples of food examined by;

- (a) Bacteriologist. Nature of sample. Result of examination.
- (b) Analyst. Nature of sample. Result of examination,

There has not been any necessity to submit any samples of food for examination during 1944.

